

Subject: Re: >WOODSIDE< Press release

Date: Tue, 22 Oct 2002 12:19:40 EDT

From: Pp3office@aol.com

To: ustiben5@ntlworld.com

Hi heres a copy of the press release i've been working on i'll probably send it out tomorrow 23/10 theres a few changes needed doing but i though id send this whilst im on line

Piet

Ethnic Cleansing UK-style

For immediate use: 22/10/2001

On the 1st of November Bedford Council intends to evict Romany Gypsy families from their own land. The decision to evict was approved by the court on evidence that was incorrect.

Some Woodside residents believe that the park's location, close to a prestigious new development, has led to the council seeking to evict them from their own land.

The Gypsies bought Woodside caravan park in order to escape a life of constant eviction and persecution. They believed, mistakenly, that a caravan park was an unobjectionable place to park caravans and proceeded to settle into the area and send their children to the local school.

>From the first of November supporters from all around the country and from all walks of life, including several members of the Clergy, will be converging on Woodside to protest against the eviction.

Denise Whittaker, 32, member of Friends of Woodside Families, who will be present to show her support for Woodside, condemns the council's decision; "This is a clear example of institutionalised racism. Government is leaving Romanies nowhere to turn for real help and no chance to help themselves."

Meanwhile a stay of eviction is being sought on the basis that resident Cliff Codona has put in a fresh planning application and his daughter is applying for a judicial review on the grounds that, being rendered homeless she has been refused appropriate alternative accommodation.

NOTES FOR THE EDITOR:

Dates of interest:

31st October, 6.30p.m. Protest in the Council Chamber at Mid Beds. Council, Dunstable, Amphil. Eleventh hour appeal to call off eviction.

1st November, early a.m. Woodside Caravan Park, Hatch Road, Hatch, Sandy, Beds, SG19 1PT. Residents and supporters ready to stop eviction.

6th November, 5p.m. Demonstration outside Victoria and Albert Museum, S. Kensington. Coinciding with launch of expo including pictures of Woodside children.

10th December. House of Commons committee room meeting on this issue to be chaired by Bob Russell MP (Lib Dem).

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Legal precedents set and being disregarded by Bedford Council:

There was a ruling some time ago that Travellers children had a right to education and this should be considered when Travellers children who are in a local school are being evicted by local authorities.

Councils have a duty of care when evicting people. They should provide suitable accommodation this doesnâ€™t necessarily mean a house, the emphasis is on suitable!

Contacts / more information:

Cliff Codona: 01767 681 651

Information on the web: <http://www.f-f-t.demon.co.uk/fft/WOODSIDE.HTM>

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Produced by the Mobile Office on behalf of the Woodside residents and supporters <http://members.aol.com/pn3office/>